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C.C.C. BOYS IMPROVE NEW FEDERAL WATERFOWL REFUGE AT BACK BAY, VA.

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C.C.C. boys are improving the newly-established Back Bay Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Princess Anne County, Va., by building sand fences to prevent beach erosion and to protect waterfowl food plants in fresh water areas against damage from salty water of the Atlantic Ocean. Ocean water is washed on the refuge during severe storms. If too much reaches the fresh-water pools the food plants are stunted or killed by the sudden increase in the water's salinity.

The sand fences are created by building two brush fences 4 to 5 feet high about 40 feet apart along the beach and letting the wind pile sand against and in between them. Poles sunk into the ground and other supporting lumber hold the brush securely. After the sand has filled in between the brush structures a single brush fence is built on top. Sand accumulates on both sides of the top fence to give the barrier added height. In some areas higher barriers are provided by building the bottom brush fences farther apart and putting up two brush fences for the second tier instead of one. After the second tier has filled in with sand a single brush fence is added. Completed barriers are planted to sand-binding plants to protect them against wind and wave action.

Sand fences also protect bodies of fresh water on the Pea Island Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, N.C., 175 miles south of the Back Bay Refuge. Both are favorite wintering and feeding grounds of waterfowl that migrate along the Atlantic flyway.

Other work scheduled for the 150 C.C.C. boys stationed at the Back Bay Refuge includes construction of marsh ponds and planting of waterfowl food and cover plants. Headquarters, other necessary buildings, and roads and trails for facilitating administration of the area by the U. S. Biological Survey also will be built.

The Back Bay camp is one of 32 Biological Survey projects approved by C.C.C. Director **Fechner** for the current 6-months period.

The refuge has been acquired by purchase under provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and was established as such by a recent Executive order. Bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, Back Bay, and Shipps Bay, it contains 8,950 acres of marshland and water. Long Island, a group of smaller islands nearby, the Ragged Island group, and a stretch of beach on the Atlantic Coast form a large part of the refuge area. The Ragged Island group has been a favorite wildfowling place many years. A royal patent from England granted in 1738 to Edward Hack Mosely for land on these islands said, "551 acres of march, rivers, and water courses therein contained together with the privileges of hunting, hawking, fishing, fowling, and all other profits, etc."

Wild geese, brant, black ducks, redheads, canvasbacks, pintails, baldpates, ruddy ducks, and whistling swans winter on the Back Bay Refuge. Further protection to waterfowl that use this area is being provided by Virginia. It has passed legislation closing water areas adjoining the refuge to waterfowl hunting.

"Acquisition of the Back Bay area as a refuge provides wild ducks and geese another safety zone on the Atlantic Coast," says the U.S. Biological Survey. "It was badly needed as the section there has been heavily hunted."